



"Generosity," by Oksana Cherkas

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 17, 2021

10:00 am Worship Service

Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette! We're so glad you're here. Whether you're a long-time member or first-time visitor, we are blessed to have you with us. We hope joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. You are loved and never alone!

Our mission statement here is **“Experience God. Grow Disciples. Transform Lives.”** As a church, we strive to be about that simple and challenging work day after day, in season and out of season. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered our lives, but it has also revealed what is most important. As we lean into what the weeks and months ahead will be like, we will continue to pray for one another. We will keep growing as followers of Christ. We will keep loving and listening to our neighbors. We will keep the hand to plow, working to embody God's dream for the world. We will keep reminding ourselves that we are a work in progress.

As we resume in-person and livestreamed services, we are committed to keeping everyone safe and finding fresh and creative ways to worship together. We value your feedback – let us know what is going well and what could be better!

- A worship bulletin will be available (hardcopy in person or pdf online)
- Please join in the liturgy and prayers and passing of the peace, as directed
- Please linger and fellowship with one another after worship in the Fellowship Garden, we would be delighted to catch up with you!
- Restrooms are available for use indoors
- The offering plate will be available to place a cash or check gift in before or after the service
- We're so glad to be worshipping with you in person and online! You are loved and never alone, friends.

With gratitude in Christ,
Pastor Jeff

***Indicates please stand, rise in body and spirit as you are able.**

PRELUDE - *Prelude on EIN FESTE BURG*

arr. Mark Hayes

BELL INTROIT - *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

Martin Luther, arr. John Leavitt

WELCOME AND COMMON LIFE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Today, may we remember that God created.

Today, may we remember that God liberated.

Today, may we remember that God fed.

Today, may we remember that God is still creating, still liberating and still feeding.

Let this be our story.

Let this be where we begin.

Let us worship God, tender and just.

***OPENING HYMN**

EIN FESTE BURG

In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration,
For brothers brave and sisters strong. **What cause for celebration!**
For those whose faithful ness has kept us through distress,
Who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night,
The blessed congregation.

For stories told and told again to every generation,
To give us strength in times of pain, to give us consolation.
Our spirits to revive to keep our dreams alive,
When we are far from home and evil seasons come;
How firm is our foundation.

For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver.
Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.
Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away,
When hate and fear are gone and all our work is done,
And we shall sing forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. Still, we engage in confession, admitting to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer...*(silence is kept)*...*Let us pray now together:*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and vulnerable God, we admit to remembering the wrong things. We remember worldly lessons like, "Everyone for themselves," "An eye for an eye," and "All is fair in love and war." And yet we forget to forgive seventy times seven, to love our neighbors as ourselves and to live as the body of Christ. Why is it so hard to remember the right things? Release us from our muscle-memory and re-center us in a new place, a fresh place, a place grounded in your love. Help us to receive your word anew, and to consider stewardship not with the world's rules, but with your rules. Help us to remember. With hope we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The only thing that can separate you is the thought that you are separate. You are forgiven. You are loved. You are a glorious work in progress.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PEACE OF CHRIST**

Now, let us share with each other the peace that forgiveness brings, saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Children are invited to pass the peace and come forward and gather with Children's Chapel leaders.

PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN - *Let us sing our prayer for the children as they move to their chapel time:*

HYMN NO. 469 (Sing twice) *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

SCRIPTURE READING - Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that he LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON - "The Paradox of Generosity"

Rev. Jeff Lehn

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 712 - *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

FOREST GREEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING TESTIMONY -

Emily Karotki

CALL FOR OFFERING

We are invited to participate in God's kingdom emerging all around us. May we offer ourselves to God with glad and generous hearts, freely giving our tithes and offerings to the ministry of this congregation. In lieu of passing the plate, we have multiple ways to give - online or in person - please consult your bulletin or the slide on your screen. As we gather our gifts together and offer them to God, may we do so in gratitude and praise.

BELL ANTHEM - *O Waly Waly*

Scottish Folk Song, arr. John Behnke

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - The Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SENDING HYMN NO. 694** – *Great God of Every Blessing*

AURELIA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** - *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

arr. Jack Schrader

Today's Worship Leaders:

Rev. Jeff Lehn, preaching

Rev. Laura Sherwood, pastoral liturgist

Amy Russell, liturgist

The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Bells

Peggy Massello, Director of Music



Week of October 17th, 2021

Sunday's at fpcw

Outdoor Worship

Join us outdoors in our beautiful Fellowship Garden for 10 am worship every Sunday until the weather does not allow. Bring your own chair or use one of ours. This allows us to worship in the safest way we can now, without masks and singing. The parking lot will be available for any who need close access to the Garden. The service will also be live-streamed. Rain plan: we worship in the sanctuary with masks.

If you're joining us via Livestream, a video link will be included in the Saturday evening email. Peggy will begin prelude music at 9:50 am and we'll get underway after that, so please join us as you're able.



The scammers are at it again - they impersonate Pastor Jeff with a message saying he has a confidential need and eventually, the scammer asks for gift cards. Please do not respond and delete the email. The email address has been reported to Google and will likely be removed soon.

Pastor Jeff or any church staff will never ask you for money, gift cards, etc., over email outside of a direct church initiative or offering related to the church budget. Only respond to an email if it comes from "fpcw.org." Pastor Jeff's email address is jlehn@fpcw.org. If an email seems suspicious, call Pastor Jeff directly or send him a text.



Troop 5 Pancake and Sausage Breakfast

Help support Troop 5 and Venturing Crew 5 on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. This year the breakfast will be outside under a tent in the fpcw parking lot. Come for a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast. This is a long-standing favorite tradition and this year is the 75th Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. Come and celebrate with Troop 5.



Tower had a lock-in at the church last night until 9 am this morning and baked cookies for today's Lemonade on the Lawn.

The Tower senior high group will also be packing Halloween care packages for college age students on Sunday (10/24). Please bring donated candy or personal note to church by October 24th. If you would like your child to receive a care package please email Scott at (youth@fpcw.org) with their college address.



2022 Giving Campaign: "A Future with Hope"

The Giving Team is excited to share that our stewardship theme in 2022 is "A Future with Hope." The theme draws on the beautiful promise from Jeremiah 29:11, "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." During the last three weeks of October (October 17, 24 and 31), the Giving Team has planned an emphasis on stewardship in worship. We will hear giving testimonies from church members each week, with an opportunity to commit our financial pledge for next year in worship on October 31, Commitment Sunday. If you'd prefer to mail in your pledge card to the church office or pledge online, we welcome that as well. (Letters and pledge cards will be sent in the mail this week and an online pledge option will be available by the end of the week.) Thank you in advance for your generosity to the life and ministry of our church, as we seek to "Experience God, Grow Disciples, Transform Lives" together! We are deeply grateful.

Racial Justice and Equality Community-wide Conversation

On Sunday, October 24, members of FPCW are invited to join in a community-wide conversation about racial justice and equality. The gathering will take place in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center from 4-5:30 p.m., and members of other churches have been invited to participate in the discussion. A representative from each church will be asked to give a brief summary of the ways in which his/her congregation has responded to the need to dismantle the systemic and structural racism that exists in this country for more than 400 years. After hearing from each attending churches, the discussion will shift to brainstorming ways in which we as a community can work together to bring about change. All are welcome to attend.

The Beatitudes Through the Ages – Sundays, 8:30-9:20 am, through Nov 21st

Join us as we study the Beatitudes together. Our guide will be “The Beatitudes Through the Ages,” by Rebekah Eklund. We’ll explore how the Beatitudes have affected readers across differing eras and contexts. Drawing on poetry, politics, music, and biblical scholarship, this class will help us appreciate the wisdom of the Beatitudes. The class will meet in a hybrid format for 10 weeks Join us in person in the WMFC or virtually over Zoom: Zoom Link (Meeting ID: 832 3379 4440; Passcode: 389051) each week.



Giving gifts at Christmas is a time-honored tradition practiced all over the world. Its origins come from our Christian heritage of the Wise Men bringing gifts of tribute to the Baby Jesus after his birth.

Giving gifts at Christmas is also a time-honored tradition at FPCW as we reach out to our community purchasing gifts for children and adults served by our mission partners to brighten their holidays. This year's recipients will be children from low-income and immigrant communities served by Erie Neighborhood House, disabled adults served by Orchard Village in Skokie, and families in homeless situations served by Family Promise of Chicago's North Shore.

This year, the FPCW mission committee is asking for your help. Not just in purchasing the gifts for the 150 people on our list, but also in helping to coordinate the project. Half of our gift list will be made available to the congregation through Sign-up Genius and the other half will be hung on tags on the Christmas tree located in the narthex of the church for members to select before/after attending worship. We need help with both parts of the project.

If you love Christmas and want to find a way to share the joy of the season with others, then this is the perfect project for you. Interested in learning more details about how you can help? Please contact Mary Watt (mhw1117@gmail.com) or Jenni Holt, (jenni.holt@yahoo.com) co-chairs of the FPCW Mission Committee.

Fpcw Mission Partners



The Family Matters community house in Rogers Park is looking for tutors. There is a waiting list of students who need support. A tutor's commitment is 1 ½ hrs per week, in one-on-one evening tutoring sessions. Interested in making a difference in a young student's life? Please contact Greg Korak (847-256-7251) and learn more about this opportunity.



Connections for the Homeless

Has several opportunities for volunteers to help support their mission. One option is to make breakfast sandwiches for their guests. To check out their website google Connections for the Homeless, Evanston. You'll find a full array of opportunities to help support this important organization.



Stock the Shelves

Continues to thrive and continues to provide important assistance to the refugee community of Chicago. We welcome and encourage donations. Checks can be made out to Stock the Shelves and mailed to Rick Drake, 335 Greenleaf Ave, Wilmette or donations can be made through the website, stocktheshelves.org. If you wish to donate diapers of all sizes or other products, please leave them inside the back door at FPCW.

Stock the Shelves Needs Volunteers for October

We need 5-6 volunteers to help us pre-pack the bags with products and load them onto the U-Haul truck. We do this on the Tuesday night before the Wednesday distribution. This month we will be packing and loading on Tuesday, October 26 at 5:30 pm in the FPCW parking lot. Please consider volunteering a couple of hours to support Stock the Shelves. Contact Rick Drake at richarddrake@comcast.net if you'd like to volunteer.



Five years ago, FPCW welcomed two refugee families who arrived in Chicago for resettlement after fleeing their home countries of Afghanistan and Sudan. We worked with World Relief to help them move into and furnish new apartments, enroll their children in school, and begin to adjust to their new life in America. They became our friends and those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with them were greatly enriched by the chance to participate in their lives.

One of our congregational members who worked closely with the families recently expressed his experience in this way: "Those were some of the more fulfilling times in my life. I felt like we were really making a difference and contribution in the lives of those families. And it opened up doors to helping other needy families along the way."

Now, once again, we are expecting a flood of refugees coming to Chicago in the weeks and months that lie ahead. And once again, World Relief is offering ways for us as a church community to get involved whether it is by volunteering as a host church, advocating to protect vulnerable refugees, making a contribution to World Relief or donating household goods or furniture.

Since we participated in a similar effort five years ago, we now know the ropes to a large extent. We know some of the challenges to expect. And we know that we need to have a robust group of members who have time, energy and commitment to devote to this project.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ in reaching out to newly arrived refugees in Chicago, please contact Mary Watt at mhw1117@gmail.com or Pete Holtermann at pcholtermann@gmail.com. We hope to schedule a meeting sometime in mid-September to discuss the opportunities for us to get involved in meeting this critical need.





*Small group offerings this fall.
New members are invited.*

Slowing Time for Women

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 pm. Our fall discussion topic is Embracing Uncertainty. New joiners always welcome! Contact Sue Sklansky at suesklansky@gmail.com

Lunch Group for Women

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at noon at fpcw, and each month a member takes the responsibility to lead the discussion. Nancy Freeman coordinates njwfreeman@gmail.com. Fall topics: The Treasures of Children's Lit, Racial Justice, Sarah's Circle, and Charles Dickens

Book and Dinner Group

Currently meeting without dinner, in-person. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm, hosted by Carol Korak. carolkorak@gmail.com. Fall books: The Line Becomes a River, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn, and The Paris Architect. (The Library Book drops off for now.)

Men's Hour

Meets Thursdays at 7 pm in the lounge. Men's Hour consists of a brief group reading, a silent 5-minute meditation, and an opportunity for each attendee to share thoughts and experiences in turn. No homework or reservations required, and drop-ins are always welcome! Paul Traynor at paultraynor@haymoon.com.

Men's Council

Meets every Saturday morning (8-9:30 am) in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. Members take turns cooking breakfast and providing a presentation. Questions? Contact Steve Reinhart steve.reinhart@gmail.com.

Bible Study

Thursdays at 10 am, in-person at fpcw in Wallace Moore Fellowship Center. How does the Bible inform our daily lives? This class is led by Pastor Jeff Lehn, jlehn@fpcw.org.

Adult Faith formation

Meets on Sunday morning at 8:30-9:30 am in the Wallace Moore Fellowship Center, through November 21st. Fall topic, The Beatitudes, led by Pastor Jeff, Lehn jlehn@fpcw.org.

Pres Homes Women

1st Thursday of the month at 10 am, via UberConference. Pastor Jeff provides the link and discussion includes a Bible Study guide. Coordinator: Joyce Dunn. redun1@juno.com or jlehn@fpcw.org.

Abigail Group

Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in a member's homes. Abigail is a women's group for separated or divorced women. The fall book discussion will be Anne Lamott's Dusk Night Dawn. Questions? Please contact Sue Sklansky at suesklansky@gmail.com.

Loop Group

Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at noon on Zoom. The "Loop Group" meets for fellowship, connection and prayer. We know many of us are stressed at work and could use a small group to be supported and encouraged by. You can work from anywhere to join this group. Interested in joining please contact Pastor Jeff Lehn at jlehn@fpcw.org.

Interested in a group for parents of teens, or a group for parent/moms of young children?

Let Sue Sklansky know (suesklansky@gmail.com) if you want to assist in getting a small group started. Training and resources are provided.

CHURCH CALENDAR

The week of October 17th, 2021

Sunday, October 17th

10:00 am	In-person Worship	Fellowship Garden
	Livestreaming Worship	YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time	Manse Backyard
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Garden

Monday, October 18th

7:30 pm	Troop 5	WMFC
---------	---------	------

Tuesday, October 19th

10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Lounge
7:00 pm	Cub Scouts	WMFC
7:30 pm	Personnel Ministry	via Zoom
	Youth Ministry Group	Lounge

Wednesday, October 20th

4:30 pm	Midweek Meet Up	Fellowship Garden
6:15 pm	Book Group	Lounge
7:00 pm	Slowing Time Group	via Zoom
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir	WMFC

Thursday, October 21st

10:00 am	Bible Study	WMFC
7:00 pm	Men's Hour	Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Bells	WMFC

Friday, October 22nd

6:00 pm	Pancake Breakfast Prep	WMFC kitchen
---------	------------------------	--------------

Saturday, October 23rd

8:00 am	Men's Council	Lounge
7:00 am	Troop 5 Pancake Breakfast	
1:30 pm	Girl Scouts	WMFC

Sunday, October 24th

10:00 am	In-person Worship	Fellowship Garden
	Livestream Worship	YouTube
10:15 am	Chapel Time	Manse Backyard
11:00 am	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Garden
5:00 pm	Tower Youth	Fellowship Garden/WMFC



Wanted by the Deacons:

Small clear vases for delivering small flower arrangements (preferably around 4-6" tall), or Ball jars work well too! Please leave them in the second-floor kitchen. Please do not leave larger vases. Thank you very much.

Fellowship Hour

We are in need of hosts for Fellowship Hour on Sundays after worship. To host fellowship is very easy, just a couple of plates of cookies will be all that is needed. A SignUpGenius link has been created and is posted on the News and Publications page of our website. Please help support this very special long-time fpcw tradition. This is a wonderful opportunity for our members and visitors to check in and stay connected.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

- For the joy of in-person and livestreaming worship which brings us all together in one place,
- For those with health concerns: Gayle Matson and Jack O’Kieffe
- For those who are grieving:
- For our homebound members,
- For those who suffer from depression, anxiety or addictions, and for those who walk alongside them.

STAY CONNECTED

If you are unable to attend worship

Please note: Sunday worship services are livestreamed each week, and posted on our website at www.fpcw.org. Click on Worship Services under the Worship & Music tab.

Stay connected to *fpcw*

Make sure you download the *fpcw* phone app and stay up to date and connect to all the church activities. Questions? Contact Sue Sklansky at ssklansky@fpcw.org.

WEBSITE

www.fpcw.org

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/1st Presbyterian Church of Wilmette

SERMONS

www.fpcw.org/worship-and-music/sermons

CALENDAR

www.fpcw.org/events-calendar

CHURCH STAFF

Jeff Lehn
Senior Pastor
jlehn@fpcw.org ext. 12

Laura Sherwood
Interim Assoc. Pastor
lsherwood@fpcw.org

Peggy Massello
Director of Worship and Music
pmassello@fpcw.org ext. 16

Scott McElhenie ext. 23
Director of Youth Ministries
youth@fpcw.org

Lindley Traynor
Director of Children & Family Ministries
ltraynor@fpcw.org ext. 20

Sue Sklansky
Dir. Of Congregational Care & Engagement
ssklansky@fpcw.org ext. 14

Madeline Weston
Office & Communications Coordinator
office@fpcw.org ext. 11

Marvin Behm
Financial Manager
finmanager@fpcw.org ext. 15

Please note:

Our office hours are:
Monday - Thursday, 9 am– 5 pm
Friday 9 am - 1 pm.



INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT

Gathered by the grace of Jesus Christ, we are a vibrant and supportive Christian family whose welcoming spirit reflects God's love for all people. We invite participation in all aspects of our church life by persons of every race, language, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, economic or marital status, or faith background. FPCW is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WILMETTE

600 9th Street, Wilmette, IL 60091-2779

847-256-3010

office@fpcw.org www.fpcw.org